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REMARKS

Applicant is filing this response within the shortened statutory period. Consequently, Applicant believes that no fee is due with this filing; however, if a fee is due please charge Deposit Account No. 502295.

The Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed on February 11, 2004 are acceptable. Therefore Applicant requests that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings are acceptable in the next communication.

Claims 1-17 were presented for examination. The Office Action rejects claims 1-17. Applicant herein amends claims 1, 8 and 14. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,777,549 by Arrowsmith et al. (hereafter "Arrowsmith"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent it is maintained against the claims as amended because the cited reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant's invention relates to a method for provisioning status monitoring for a network element in a communications network. A user is provided with multiple predefined templates. Each template is associated with a facility type (e.g., STS-1, DS-3, and OC-48) supported by the network element and includes multiple profiles. Each profile includes values for various status parameters to be monitored. A status parameter can indicate whether an alarm type is enabled for reporting or is otherwise disabled. Alternatively, a status parameter can be a performance parameter defined according to a threshold number of events of a specific type that occur within a defined time interval. Each facility instantiation in the network module can have a large number of alarms and performance data to be managed. The

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user selects one of the profiles for each facility instantiation in the network element. Status reporting for each instantiation occurs as defined by the corresponding profile.

The method of the invention is particularly advantageous because large numbers of alarm types and performance parameters can be predefined. The user selects one of the available profiles to provision a facility instantiation. Manual selection of the alarm types to be reported and/or manual entry of the values associated with performance parameters are substantially reduced as only a few alarm types or performance parameters may need to be changed. For some instantiations, the selected profile may require no changes. Thus the method permits efficient provisioning of large numbers of facility instantiations, especially where the desired alarm types to be reported or performance parameter values are similar for different instantiations.

Arrowsmith discloses a method for receiving alarms from network management servers and applying policy-based filters to the received alarms. The network management servers are outside the network being managed. The servers provide alarms to an alarm notification manager which is also outside the network. (See, e.g., FIG. 2) The alarms are filtered at the alarm notification manager. Alarms which pass the filter criteria are sent to one or more network management applications.

In contrast to Arrowsmith, alarm and event reporting for network elements managed according to the method of Applicant's invention are suppressed at their sources (i.e., the network elements) within the communications network. Thus operations and management traffic sent from each network element in the network is substantially reduced. Arrowsmith does not teach or suggest provisioning of alarms or performance parameters at elements within the network. Moreover, Arrowsmith would not be motivated to use predetermined templates at the alarm notification manager as the filtering is used only to support a small number of management applications as compared to the number of network elements.

Representative claim 14 as now set forth recites in pertinent part "providing to a user a plurality of predefined templates corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of facility

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types of a facility instantiation of the network element” and “selecting one of the profiles for the instantiation of the facility type in the network element.” Arrowsmith does not teach or suggest how to manage alarm types and performance parameters at network elements. Instead, filtering of alarms is performed according to policies selected for network management applications utilized outside of the network. Thus Arrowsmith does not teach or suggest the limitations of providing to a user predefined templates for facility instantiations at network elements and selection of such profiles.

Thus Arrowsmith does not teach or suggest every limitation in representative claim 14 and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn. Independent claims 1 and 8 as now set forth include similar language to claim 14 and therefore are patentable for at least those reasons provided with respect to claim 14. Claims 2, 9 and 15-17 depend directly or indirectly from the patentable independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and incorporate all of the limitations of the appropriate independent claim. Therefore Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least those reasons provided in connection with claims 1, 8, and 14 and Applicant requests that the rejection against these dependent claims also be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrowsmith. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent it is maintained against the claims as amended because the cited reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicant’s claimed invention.

The arguments presented above with respect to claim 14, in general, and to Arrowsmith, in particular, are reiterated. Claims 3-5, 10 and 11 depend directly from the patentable independent claims 1 and 8 and incorporate all of their limitations, and therefore are also patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least those reasons provided in connection with claim 14. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection against these claims is also overcome.

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Claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrowsmith in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,985,831 by Ito et al. (hereafter "Ito"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent it is maintained against the claims as amended because the cited reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicant's claimed invention.

Ito teaches a field instrument for collecting and transmitting data signals from remote locations. The Office Action states that Ito discloses a monitoring system in which an alarm may use a default profile. However, Ito does not relate to network management activities and, similar to Arrowsmith, Ito does not teach or suggest "providing to a user a plurality of predefined templates corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of facility types of a facility instantiation of the network element" and "selecting one of the profiles for the instantiation of the facility type in the network element." Thus, Arrowsmith and Ito, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest every claimed limitation of the Applicant's invention, and therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims that have not been expressed.

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CONCLUSION


In view of the remarks made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003.

Respectfully submitted,

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